

WO-68
Spencer House
Snow Hill vicinity
private

circa 1790

The Spencer house stands out as one of the largest and most elaborately detailed of the late eighteenth-century frame plantation dwellings in Worcester County. Resting on a raised Flemish bond brick foundation, the four-room plan house is fitted with sophisticated Georgian and Federal style woodwork including a fanlighted main entrance, second floor Palladian windows, and bold modillion block cornices. The interior retains much of its eighteenth-century woodwork. Crossetted surrounds, raised six-panel doors, raised-panel wainscoting, a turned baluster stair, a variety of cornice and chair rail moldings, and decorated mantels finish each room. Especially noteworthy is the elaborate archway dividing the second floor hall. The floor plan and finish features of the Spencer house are similar to the house known as Caldicott or the Vessey house, built for Littleton Dennis on the Pocomoke River in Somerset County.

The research for this property indicates this impressive frame dwelling was erected probably for Sarah Hough Hayward or her son, George Hayward during the late eighteenth century on a tract of land known as "Leedes." Sarah Hayward was the daughter of Edmund Hough, who patented the 623-acre tract, "Leedes," in 1734. Sarah Hough Hayward and her husband, George Hayward apparently occupied the property. George died in 1773 and the property remained in Sarah's hands, for which she was taxed in 1783. Sarah Hayward, widow, is listed at the time with parts of "Leedes," "Wing," and "Second Addition," which totaled 810 acres. Due to the wrought-nail construction of this house along with the Georgian and Federal style architectural features, the house could have been

erected as early as 1790 by Sarah Hayward. After her death in 1804 the property was divided between her two children, George and Sarah Hough Hayward. The plantation with the extant house evidently passed to George, however it is not certain when George Hayward died. He apparently occupied his parent's plantation house until the 1840s, when his estate was evaluated, divided and sold by the Worcester County court. In October 1846, Robert H. Selby, a representative of an appointed commission, sold 225 acres of the "Leedes" tract to John Spencer for \$3,200.50, property which included the house. In the 1860 the U. S. census for Worcester County John Spencer, listed as a 78-year old farmer, was designated with real estate worth \$34,000, a relatively high sum for the period. John Spencer's will was proved the next year, on July 24, 1861, and he bequeathed to his brother Benjamin's daughter, Maltilda, "...the farm which I purchased of Robert Selby known as the Hayward Place. The farm has remained in the Spencer family to this day.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: SPENCER House

MHT Inventory Number: WO- 60

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Agriculture

2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1680-1815 Rural Agrarian Intensification

4) Resource Type(s):

1. Standing Structure

a. Single-Family Dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-68

Magi No. 2400685204

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE HAYWARD HOUSE, LEEDES

and/or common SPENCER HOUSE

2. Location

street & number Spencer Road _____ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ___x___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___x___ occupied	___x___ agriculture
___x___ building(s)	___x___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___x___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	___x___ not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___x___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles B. Spencer, Jr.

street & number 205 East Market Street telephone no.: 632-0822

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Wills liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ___ federal ___x___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. W0-68

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Spencer house, historically known as the George Hayward house, stands on a tract formerly known as Leedes. Situated west of the Pocomoke River, the farm is bounded by Nassawango and Spencer roads in the vicinity of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame house faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1790, the two-story, four-room plan frame dwelling is supported by a partially stuccoed Flemish bond brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of vinyl siding over wood shingles. Evident within the attic is a layer of weatherboard siding under the wood shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north (main) facade is a symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The center raised nine-panel door is topped by a round arched fanlight defined by radiating muntins. Further distinguishing the center of the fanlight is a floral motif of ovate muntins that fill the spaces between the longer radiating muntins. Spanning the distance between the outside ends of the main muntins are shorter swag-shaped muntins. Sheltering the center three bays is an early twentieth-century shed roofed porch supported on brick piers and square posts. The second floor is marked by a Palladian window in the center bay. The three-part window is composed of a fifteen-over-nine center sash and flanking three-over-three sash. Stretching across the base of the roof is a modillion block cornice with an exposed bed molding. The crown molding has been covered.

The west end of the house is defined by three two-over-two sash windows on each floor, and the pair of attic windows have been boarded over. Rising through the center of the house is an interior end brick chimney covered with a coat of stucco. The cap is corbelled. During a recent windstorm the artificial vinyl siding was blown off to reveal the wood shingles in the upper gable end.

The east gable end of the house is largely similar to the west with two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floor. The third floor, however, retains a pair of six-over-six sash windows to either side of the interior end brick stack. A cellar access door is also located on the east side of the foundation.

The south (rear) facade is a five-bay elevation as well. A shed roofed porch, which is partially enclosed, stretches across the three western bays. A center entrance retains a raised nine-panel door, while a later door is located in the western bay for access into the kitchen. The remaining bays are filled with two-over-two sash windows. The second floor is lighted by a center Palladian style window with flanking two-over-two sash windows. A modillion block cornice stretches across the base of the roof.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-68

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Spencer house stands out as one of the largest and ~~and~~ most elaborately detailed of the late eighteenth-century frame plantation dwellings in Worcester County. Resting on a raised Flemish bond brick foundation, the four-room plan house is fitted with sophisticated Georgian and Federal style woodwork including a fanlighted main entrance, second floor Palladian windows, and bold modillion block cornices. The interior retains much of its eighteenth-century woodwork. Crossetted surrounds, raised six-panel doors, raised-panel wainscoting, a turned baluster stair, a variety of cornice and chair rail moldings, and decorated mantels finish each room. Especially noteworthy is the elaborate archway dividing the second floor hall. The floor plan and finish features of the Spencer house are similar to the house known as Caldicott or the Vessey house, built for Littleton Dennis on the Pocomoke River in Somerset County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The research for this property indicates this impressive frame house was erected probably for Sarah Hough Hayward or her son, George Hayward during the late eighteenth century on a tract of land known as "Leedes." Sarah Hayward was the daughter of Edmund Hough, who patented the 623-acre tract, "Leedes," in 1734. Sarah Hough Hayward and her husband, George Hayward apparently occupied the property however, George died in 1773 and the property remained in Sarah's hands, for which she was taxed in 1783. Sarah Hayward, widow, is listed at the time with parts of "Leedes," "Wing," and "Second Addition," which totaled 810 acres. Due to the wrought-nail construction of this house along with the Georgian- and Federal-style architectural features, the house could have been erected as early as 1790 by Sarah Hayward. After her death in 1804 the property was divided between her two children, George and Sarah Hough Hayward. The property with the house evidently passed to George, however it is not certain when George Hayward died. His estate was evaluated and ~~and~~ sold by the Worcester County court. In October of 1846, Robert H. Selby, a representative of the appointed commission, sold 225 acres of the "Leedes" tract to John Spencer for \$3,200.50; property which included

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-68

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization Worcester County date 2/10/89

street & number Worcester County Courthouse telephone 301-632-1194

city or town Snow Hill state MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

SPENCER HOUSE DESCRIPTION (continued)

Page 2

The interior of the Spencer house has survived with a large percentage of its late eighteenth-century Federal style finishes. Hand-made wrought-iron nails are found in the attic framing while crude cut-nails appear to hold the riven lath in place. The house is divided into a four-room plan with a generous entrance stairhall and a smaller room with a corner hearth to the west. Across the back of the house are two large rooms, the southwest room being the largest and more elaborately finished. During the early twentieth century the southwest room was partitioned and converted into a kitchen.

The front hall is dominated by a turned baluster, quarter-turn stair with a scroll decorated stringer. During the past few years the first section of stair railing has been removed. Saved in the attic is the curled end to the handrail and some of the turned balusters. The section of molded handrail appears to be missing. The stringer survives largely unchanged with a repeating scroll motif. The area under the stringer and the stair soffit is paneled, and a raised four-panel door opens into the stair closet. Opening into the adjacent rooms are raised six-panel doors framed by double crossetted surrounds. The hall is also trimmed with a decorative cornice with a Wall-of-Troy bed molding, and a molded baseboard. The windows are framed with crossetted surrounds as well and are distinguished by fluted pilasters below the molded and decorated chair rail. Finishing the inside face of the front door is a diagonal beaded board backing which is framed by a molded surround. Small carved medallions highlight the transom bar. A Wall-of-Troy and a rope molding distinguish the fanlight surround that is interrupted at its head with a keystone carved with a flame-shaped finial. Another unusual feature to the front hall is the round arched door opening that opens into a small closet-sized space at the east end of the room.

The southeast room has not been changed significantly either, and raised-panel wainscoting, chair rail and baseboard moldings, and a decorated cornice trim the perimeter of the room. Crossetted surrounds frame the door to the front hall and the windows, while a plain surround trims the later four-panel door to the southwest room, which is now the kitchen. The chimney breast is fitted with a Federal style mantel of reeded pilasters and reed decorated frieze blocks. Above the frieze a complex series of moldings that form the cornice and mantel shelf.

The southwest room, formerly the parlor, has been converted to a kitchen. Partitions separate a first floor bathroom, a back hall space, and a pantry from the main room. Fixed against the chimney breast is an elaborate Federal style mantel the is flanked by reeded pilasters which extend from the baseboard to the ceiling. The mantel is composed of reeded pilasters under a decorated frieze and an elaborate modillioned cornice and stepped mantel shelf. The plastered overmantel is framed by a beaded edge molding. Stretching around the room is a modillion block cornice which is also enhanced by Wall-of-Troy and rope moldings. Double crossetted surrounds frame the

original door and window openings, and below each window are pairs of reeded pilasters. In addition, the room is fitted with decorated chair rail and baseboards.

The fourth and smallest room is located in the northwest corner of the house and is served by a corner hearth. A molded surround frames the hearth and a thin board has been added to serve as a mantel shelf. This room is the least elaborate of the first floor spaces but nevertheless retains period baseboard, chair rail and cornice moldings.

The second floor is similarly divided with the addition of a wide center passage that divides the principal rooms. Centered in the passage an archway, flanked by fluted pilasters, is enriched with an elaborate round arch, and scroll decorated capitals. Built-up plinths support floor to ceiling pilasters, and at above head height a round arch springs from scroll incised capitals. The arch molding consists of a narrow ovolo molded backband nestled next to a Wall-of-Troy row. A keystone, which interrupts the arch, is embellished with a sunburst-shaped medallion. The hall is also fitted with period baseboard, chair rail and cornice moldings, and crossetted door surround frame the raised six-panel doors that open into each bedroom. Fixed at the north and south ends of the hall are Palladian windows finished inside with fluted pilasters that flank the center arched window. A small fluted keystone interrupts the window arches as well. Rising in the northeast corner of the hall is the attic stair with a turned newel post and turned balusters that support a molded handrail. The stringer is decorated with less elaborate scrollwork than the first floor, and the wall surface below the stringer is finished with a flat panel. Similar to the first floor is the small closet-sized room in the northeast corner which is finished with plaster walls, chair rail and a simple beaded baseboard molding. Fixed in the lower southwest corner of the room is a small raised-panel door that provides access to the storage space below the attic stair. Although the small door is detached remains of the H-shaped hinges survive.

The northwest bedroom retains original finishes for the most part and the six-panel door to this room is one of the few doors with an early iron box lock and brass door knobs. The room is finished with plaster walls, beaded baseboard molding, chair rail, and a dentiled cornice. The room was never heated by a separate hearth.

The larger south bedrooms were heated by individual hearths and feature more expensive woodwork. Both rooms survive with decorated Federal style mantels, and variations of the chair rail and cornice moldings found in the rest of the house.

Having never been finished the attic is one large space with a exposed common rafter roof system. A series of lapped collar beams are fastened with wrought nails and each mortise-and-tenon peak joint is fixed with a wooden pin. At each end of the attic are the chimney stacks which rise through the roof. Since there are only flues on the south side of the east end stack a peculiar corbelled brick leg supports

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the curving chimney mass as it rises through to the roof. The raised six-panel door at the head of the attic stair is hung on HL hinges.

A small outbuilding, probably a detached kitchen or a quarter, which stood behind the house at the time the property was surveyed in the early 1970s, has been destroyed. Only brick fragments and a few timbers are left to mark the site.

SPENCER HOUSE SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the house. In the 1860 U. S. census for Worcester County John Spencer, listed as a 78-year old farmer, was designated with real estate worth \$34,000, a relatively high sum for the period. John Spencer's will was proved the next year, on July 24, 1861, and he bequeathed to his brother Benjamin's daughter, Maltilda, "...the farm which I purchased of Robert Selby known as the Hayward Place.(TT 8/30) The property has remained in the Spencer family to this day.

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Worcester</u> TOWN <u>Shaw Hill</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Spencer Rd + Nassawango Rd.</u></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Charles B. Spencer</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>WO-68</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>Spencer House</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1800</u> STYLE <u>Georgian</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; padding: 10px 0;"> The Spencer House is one of the finest examples of a Georgian House in rural Worcester County. It is five bays long and three bays deep, built on a tall brick basement. The entire frame structure is covered with cedar shingles. There is a leanto porch on both facades, not the full length of the house. The main entrance, facing northeast, has a nine-panel door (like the Only House and Henry's Grove) and a semicircular fanlight with panes like the petals of a flower. Above the door on each facade is a Palladian style window with fluted pilasters and the original small pane sash. The other sash have been changed to two over two. A tall brick chimney emerges from each gable at the ridge of the "A" roof. </p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>poor</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; padding: 20px 0;">(continued on reverse side)</p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <u>Nov, 1969</u></p>



(Continued)

From the porch, one can see some woodwork of merit - an arch in front of a side window with a small rosette carved on the keystone, and a wall of troy cornice.

Behind the building is the ruin of a small frame building with chimney, possibly a kitchen or quarters.

The house stands very tall out of the flat farmland just north ~~and~~ west of Snow Hill.

WO-68

SPENCER HOUSE, ALSO GEORGE HAYWARD HOUSE, LEEDES
Spencer Road
Snow Hill, MD 21863

CHAIN OF TITLE

KJC 29/38

Charles B. Spencer, Sr.

to

Filed
10/17/1968

Charles B. Spencer, Jr.

Will E.P.D.
10/30-32

Last will and testement of
Benjamin Spencer

to

Filed
6/9/1908

Charles B. Spencer, Sr.

Item: I give and devise to my nephew,
Charles B. Spencer, my farm on the
north west side of Pocomoke River
where Charles McKee now resides, with
the provisio, however, that all the
growing timber standing upon said farm
at my death down to six inches at the
stump shall be sold by my executor
hereinafter named and the proceeds from
said sale to go into the residue of my
estate and distributed as hereinafter
provided.

T.T. 8/30

Will of John Spencer

to

Filed
7/24/1861

Neice Matilda Spencer, daughter of my
Brother Benjamin

First: I give and devise to my nephew
Benjamin Spencer, son of my Brother
Benjamin the Hutchinson farm, which I
purchased of Joseph Hutchinson

Second: I give and devise unto my nephew William Spencer, son of my brother Benjamin my swamp farm which I purchased of Dr. Thomas R. Spence...

Third: I give and devise to my nephew James Spencer, son of my brother Benjamin the farm on which I reside, consisting of all the land which I purchased of William C. Mumford and Reverend Vaughn Smith

Fourth: I give and devise to my nephew John Ellis the farm on the western side of Pocomoke River known as the Martin farm which I purchased of Walter P. Snow and Ephaim K. Wilson trustees to sell the real estate of Samuel R. Smith, deceased, and I fix the line between the said farm and the Hayward Place which I have devised to my neice Matilda Spencer as the same was claimed by the said Samuel R. Smith and as it is now designated by a line of marked trees.

Fifth: I give and devise to my neice Maltilda Spencer, daughter of my brother Benjamin the farm which I purchased of Robert Selby known as the Hayward Place to her heirs and assigns forever.

G.M.H. 9/271

Robert H. Selby

to

10/14/1846

John Spencer

\$3,200.50 "Leedes" Divison No. 2
...laid down and particularly described by commissioners appointed by Worcester County Court at the May term thereof in 1840 to divide and value the real estate of George Hayward, late of Worcester County...near the line of a tract of land called "Caulaveine"?? at the corner of the county road leading from Snow Hill

to Naswango Bridge...and thence running
southwest until it intersects the lines
of a tract called Northfield containing
225 acres

Sarah Hayward, widow of George Hayward
and daughter of Edmund Hough

to

11/10/1775
(Dryden Book)

son, George Hayward and
daughter, Sarah Hough Hayward

623 acres "Leedes"

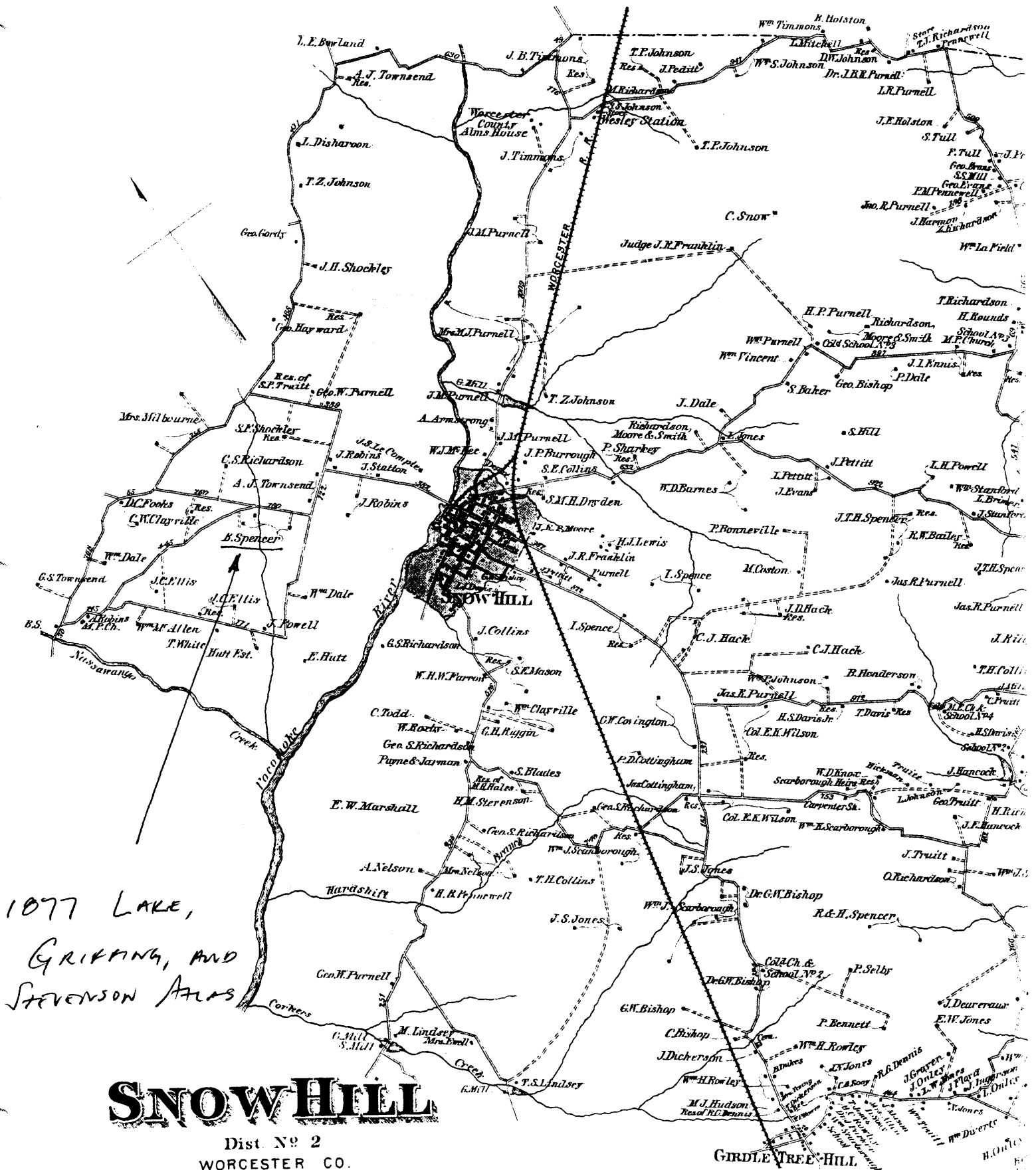
Edmund Hough, Last will and testament

to

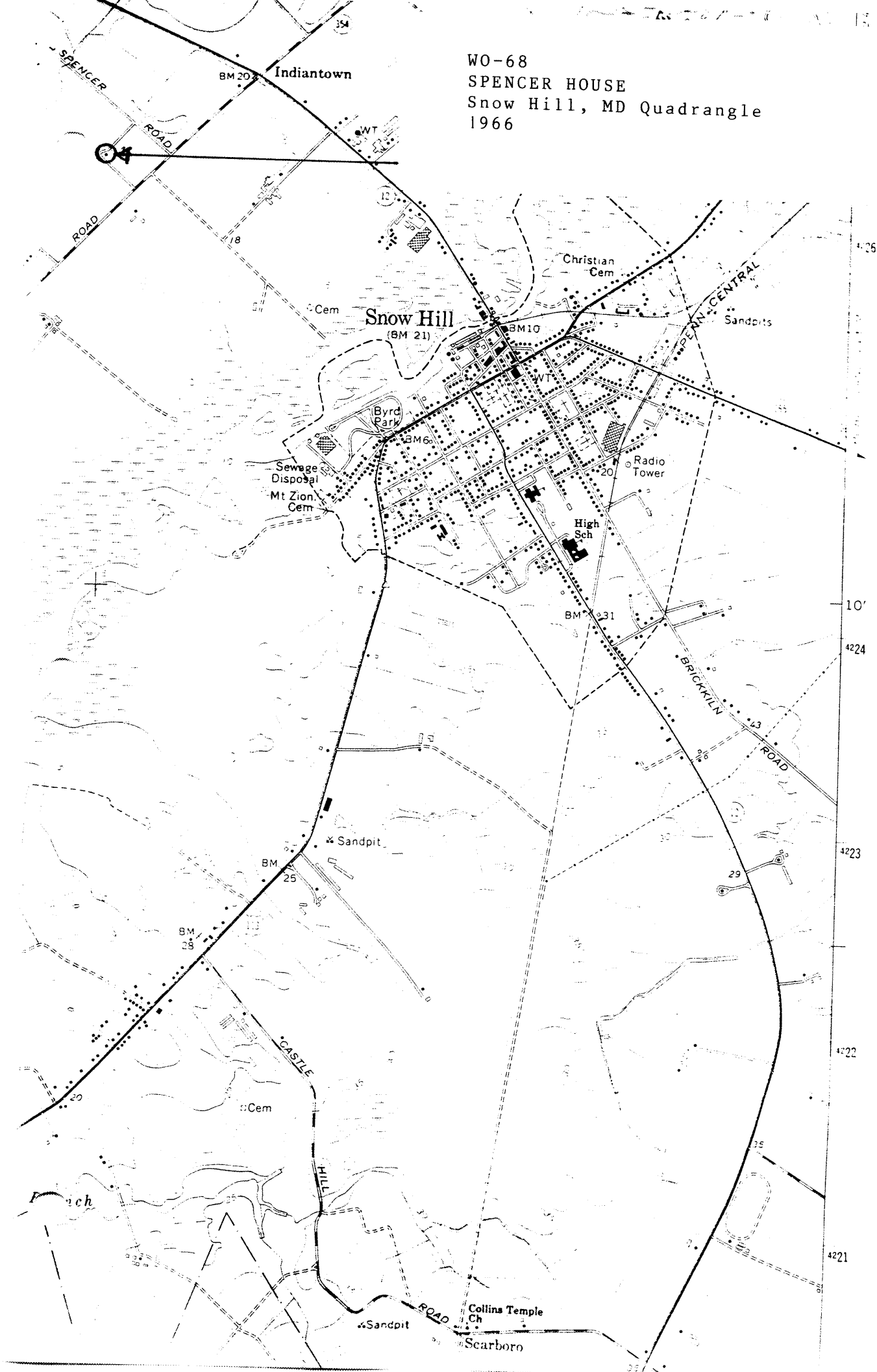
1760
(Dryden Book)

wife Hannah Hough
"Leedes"

Patented in 1734 by Edmund Hough for 623 acres, "Leedes"
(Dryden Book)



W0-68
SPENCER HOUSE
Snow Hill, MD Quadrangle
1966



WO-68 Spencer House



Spencer House

WO-68

A

11/69

Michael BOURNE